Tips on writing successful research grants: Perspectives from an early mid-career researcher

Dr Adam Geraghty
Senior Research Fellow
A.W.Geraghty@soton.ac.uk
Primary Care Population Sciences and Medical Education
My research grant journey

Little & Geraghty Co-PIs
Reducing common infections in usual practice
NIHR PGfAR: £2,462,362.

Geraghty PI
RCT of clinical and cost-effectiveness of a digital low back pain intervention
NIHR HTA: £1,204,468.

Geraghty PI
Development and trial of a digital intervention for low back pain
NIHR RfPB: £249,934.

Yardley & Geraghty Co-PIs
Development and trial of an online dizziness intervention
Charity funding: £155,380.

Geraghty PI
Developing a distress reduction intervention
NIHR SPCR: £45,095.
Tip 1: Great grant writing mentors

- Fundamental
- Lots of successful grant projects
- Extensive experience with funding boards
- Provide rapid feedback on ideas and drafts
Tip 2: Importance of topic area

- Need to be a key priority for funders
- Which of your areas of interest has highest need?
- Strength of argument must be apparent
Tip 3: Collaborators and networks

- Collaborate with leaders in the field
- Particularly important early career, mid career
- Increase chances of success
Tip 4: Planning

- Allow as much time as possible
- If unsure, wait, go for next deadline
- Have full team on board from the outset
- Allow for the administrative elements
Tip 5: Listen to your gut

- General strength and coherence
- How do you feel after reading full drafts?
- Coherence of idea, team, project plan
- Content and writing
- How happy are you to share with collaborators?
Tip 6: Your heart has to be in it

- Do what interests and excites you
- Difficult, setbacks, rejections
- Helpful to be doing things that align with your goals and values
- Supports drive, persistence and coping resources
Summary:

- Have great grant writing mentors
- Find an important and necessary topic area
- Seek leading collaborators
- Plan well ahead
- Listen to your gut
- Make sure your heart is in it
Thank you

Questions?

A.W.Geraghty@soton.ac.uk